restarting measurement of the average transfer rate if the read address is arranged in a formation other than an increasing order.

7. (Amended) The information reproducing method as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

determining validity of the average transfer rate on the basis of average transfer rates obtained a number of times of measurement; and

validating the average transfer rate if the average transfer rates obtained a number of times of measurement are close to each other.

9. (Amended) The information reproducing method as claimed in Claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

temporarily storing information read from the information medium in a cache memory;

pre-reading information if a space is available in the cache memory; and

causing measurement of the average transfer rate to be initiated when the cache memory is full of data and the pre-reading of information is completed in a case where information is read from the information medium at a maximum rate.

14. (Amended) The information reproducing apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, further comprising:

a monitoring part monitoring whether the read request is issued; and

a restarting part restarting measurement of the average transfer rate if the read request is

not issued for a predetermined time in measurement of the average transfer rate.

15. (Amended) The information reproducing apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, further comprising:

a monitoring part monitoring a read address of the read request; and

a restarting part restarting measurement of the average transfer rate if the read address is arranged in a formation other than an increasing order.

16. (Amended) The information reproducing apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, further comprising:

a determining part determining validity of the average transfer rate on the basis of average transfer rates obtained a number of times of measurement; and

a validating part validating the average transfer rate if the average transfer rates obtained a number of times of measurement are close to each other.

18. (Amended) The information reproducing apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, further comprising:

a storing part temporarily storing information read from the information medium in a cache memory;

a pre-reading part pre-reading information if a space is available in the cache memory; and

a part causing measurement of the average transfer rate to be initiated when the cache

memory is full of data and the pre-reading of information is completed in a case where information is read from the information medium at a maximum rate.

Please add claims 19-35 as follows:

19. (New) The information reproducing method as claimed in Claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

monitoring whether the read request is issued; and

restarting measurement of the average transfer rate if the read request is not issued for a predetermined time in measurement of the average transfer rate.

20. (New) The information reproducing method as claimed in Claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

monitoring a read address of the read request; and

restarting measurement of the average transfer rate if the read address is arranged in a formation other than an increasing order.

21. (New) The information reproducing method as claimed in Claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

determining validity of the average transfer rate on the basis of average transfer rates obtained a number of times of measurement; and

validating the average transfer rate if the average transfer rates obtained a number of times of measurement are close to each other.

22. (New) The information reproducing method as claimed in Claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

temporarily storing information read from the information medium in a cache memory;

pre-reading information if a space is available in the cache memory; and

causing measurement of the average transfer rate to be initiated when the cache memory is full of data and the pre-reading of information is completed in a case where information is read from the information medium at a maximum rate.

23. (New) The information reproducing method as claimed in Claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

monitoring whether the read request is issued; and

restarting measurement of the average transfer rate if the read request is not issued for a predetermined time in measurement of the average transfer rate.

24. (New) The information reproducing method as claimed in Claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

monitoring a read address of the read request; and

restarting measurement of the average transfer rate if the read address is arranged in a formation other than an increasing order.

25. (New) The information reproducing method as claimed in Claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

determining validity of the average transfer rate on the basis of average transfer rates obtained a number of times of measurement; and

validating the average transfer rate if the average transfer rates obtained a number of times of measurement are close to each other.

26. (New) The information reproducing method as claimed in Claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

temporarily storing information read from the information medium in a cache memory;

pre-reading information if a space is available in the cache memory; and

causing measurement of the average transfer rate to be initiated when the cache memory is full of data and the pre-reading of information is completed in a case where information is read from the information medium at a maximum rate.

27. (New) The information reproducing apparatus as claimed in Claim 12, further comprising:

a monitoring part monitoring whether the read request is issued; and

a restarting part restarting measurement of the average transfer rate if the read request is not issued for a predetermined time in measurement of the average transfer rate.

28. (New) The information reproducing apparatus as claimed in Claim 12, further comprising:

a monitoring part monitoring a read address of the read request; and

a restarting part restarting measurement of the average transfer rate if the read address is arranged in a formation other than an increasing order.

29. (New) The information reproducing apparatus as claimed in Claim 12, further comprising:

a determining part determining validity of the average transfer rate on the basis of average transfer rates obtained a number of times of measurement; and

a validating part validating the average transfer rate if the average transfer rates obtained a number of times of measurement are close to each other.

30. (New) The information reproducing apparatus as claimed in Claim 12, further comprising:

a storing part temporarily storing information read from the information medium in a cache memory;

a pre-reading part pre-reading information if a space is available in the cache memory; and

a part causing measurement of the average transfer rate to be initiated when the cache memory is full of data and the pre-reading of information is completed in a case where information is read from the information medium at a maximum rate.

31. (New) The information reproducing apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, further comprising:

a monitoring part monitoring whether the read request is issued; and

a restarting part restarting measurement of the average transfer rate if the read request is not issued for a predetermined time in measurement of the average transfer rate.

32. (New) The information reproducing apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, further comprising:

a monitoring part monitoring a read address of the read request; and

a restarting part restarting measurement of the average transfer rate if the read address is arranged in a formation other than an increasing order.

33. (New) The information reproducing apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, further comprising:

a determining part determining validity of the average transfer rate on the basis of average transfer rates obtained a number of times of measurement; and

a validating part validating the average transfer rate if the average transfer rates obtained a number of times of measurement are close to each other.

34. (New) The information reproducing apparatus as claimed in Claim 13, further comprising:

a storing part temporarily storing information read from the information medium in a cache memory;

a pre-reading part pre-reading information if a space is available in the cache memory;

and

a part causing measurement of the average transfer rate to be initiated when the cache memory is full of data and the pre-reading of information is completed in a case where information is read from the information medium at a maximum rate.

35. (New) The information reproducing apparatus as claimed in Claim 14, further comprising:

a storing part temporarily storing information read from the information medium in a cache memory;

a pre-reading part pre-reading information if a space is available in the cache memory; and

a part causing measurement of the average transfer rate to be initiated when the cache memory is full of data and the pre-reading of information is completed in a case where information is read from the information medium at a maximum rate.